

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A computer implemented method for managing submittal requirements for a construction project, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a first database containing information related to managing a construction project having stored therein a plurality of requirements for the construction project;

providing a second database containing specific information on system users;

providing a third database containing information on submittal documents to be completed and approved as part of a project; and

providing a computer network including a plurality of user computer access

~~points;~~ **points,**

said network including a subscriber access point **for use by a subscriber**

**to said system, said subscriber access point** having full access to **enter, to** read and to change information in said first, second and third ~~databases;~~ **databases,**

said network further including a contributor access point **for use by a**

**contributor to said submittal documents, said contributor**

**access point** having access to read information in said first and second databases and access to **enter,** read and change

information in said third ~~database;~~ **database,**

said network further including a responder access point for use by a responder, said responder access point having access to read information in said first, second and third database and having the ability to approve said submittal ~~documents.~~ documents;  
posting a completed submittal to said network for review by said responder following completion by said contributor; and  
approving said completed submittal electronically by said responder via said network.

2. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein said subscriber access point can issue passwords to give access to information to said contributor access point and said responder access point.

3. **(Currently Amended)** A computer network implemented method providing for managing preparation of submittal documentation for a construction project said method comprising the steps of:

providing a first database for receiving and storing information related to  
preparing a submittal document for a construction project, receiving  
therein requirements for the construction project submittal;  
providing a second database for storing information about system users;  
providing a third database for storing, retrieving and displaying submittal  
documents to be completed and approved as part of the construction  
project;

providing for a computer network including a plurality of user computer  
accessible points for accessing said first, second and third databases,  
wherein said databases are controlled by a subscription service  
provider;

receiving information via said computer network from a subscriber access point  
having full access to read and to change information in said first, second  
and third databases;

receiving information via said computer network from a contributor access point  
having access to read only information in said first and second databases  
and access to read and change information in said third database.

4. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 3 including the step of receiving information from a responder access point having the ability to read only information in said first, second and third database and said network having the ability to receive approval of said submittal documents from said responder access point such that automatic authorization of project payments can be provided via said computer network.
5. **(Original)** The method of claim 3 wherein a user of said subscriber access point is a prime contractor on said construction project.
6. **(Original)** The method of claim 4 wherein said requirements for the construction project include project drawings.

7. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 4 wherein a user of said responder access point is an architect or a project engineer on said construction project.
8. **(Original)** The method of claim 4 wherein said project payments are for materials required in said submittal document.
9. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of automatically sending a message via said computer network to said contributor when information is received.
10. **(Currently Amended)** A method of completing construction project submittal requirements including the steps of:
  - submitting information to a submittal document stored on a component of a computer network, **said component of said computer network being controlled by a subscription service provider;**
  - requesting submittal document required information from access points connected to said computer network;
  - requesting approval through said computer network of said submittal document stored on said component of said computer network.
11. **(Currently Amended)** A computer network system comprising:
  - a first database for receiving information related to a submittal document for a construction project, receiving therein a plurality of requirements for the construction project submittal;

a second database for system users that receives a plurality of specific information about system users;

a third database for submittal documents to be completed and approved as part of the construction project;

a computer network including a plurality of user computer accessible points for accessing said first, second and third databases, wherein said databases are controlled by a subscription service provider;

a subscriber access point having full access to read and to change information in said first, second and third databases;

and a contributor access point having access to read only information in said first and second databases and access to read and change information in said third database such that said contributor can complete said submittal document and submit it via said computer network for approval.

12. **(Original)** The computer network system of claim 11, wherein a user of said subscriber access point is a prime contractor on said construction project.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The computer network system of claim 11, including a responder access point having the ability to read only information in said first, second and third database and said network having the ability to receive approval of said submittal documents from said responder access point such that automatic authorization of project payments can be provided via said computer network.

14. **(Currently Amended)** A computer network implemented method providing for managing preparation and storage of submittal documentation for a construction project said method comprising the steps of:

providing a first database for receiving and storing information related to  
preparing a submittal document for a construction project, receiving  
therein requirements for the construction project submittal;  
providing a second database for storing information about system users;  
providing a third database for storing, retrieving and displaying submittal  
documents to be completed and approved as part of the construction  
project;  
providing for a computer network including a plurality of user computer  
accessible points **for accessing said first, second and third databases,**  
**wherein said databases are controlled by a subscription service**  
**provider;**  
receiving information from at least one subscriber access point having full access  
to read and to change information in said first, second and third  
databases;  
receiving information from at least one contributor access point having access to  
complete said submittal documents; and  
archiving completed submittal documents **by said subscription service**  
**provider** for future retrieval.

15. **(Original)** The method of claim 14 including the step of notifying automatically said subscriber and said contributor access points upon approval of a submittal document through said computer network.
16. **(Original)** The method of claim 14 wherein said at least one contributor access point has access to read and change information in said first and second databases.
17. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of receiving approval of said submittal documents such that automatic authorization of project payments can be provided via said computer network.
18. **(Original)** The method of claim 17 wherein payment requests are received from said contributor.
19. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein automatic authorization of payment can be provided via said network.
20. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein said network comprises the Internet.
21. **(Original)** The method of claim 3 wherein a user of said contributor access point is a subcontractor on said construction project.
22. **(Original)** The method of claim 3 wherein said computer network comprises the Internet.

INVENTOR: HARRIS, Elbert  
Serial No. 10/693,590

---

23. **(Original)** The method of claim 10 wherein said computer network comprises the Internet.
24. **(Original)** The method of claim 11 wherein said computer network comprises the Internet.
25. **(Original)** The method of claim 14 wherein said computer network comprises the Internet.



26. **(Currently Amended)** A method of managing submittals for a construction project, said method comprising the steps of:
- preparing a submittal containing requirements and/or specifications for at least a component of the construction project;
  - posting the submittal at a central location **controlled by a service provider**;
  - accessing the submittal at the central location by a contributor to the submittal;
  - completing the submittal by the contributor; and
  - updating the posting of the submittal to include the completed submittal at the central location.
27. **(Currently Amended)** The method as claimed in claim **25 26** further comprising the step of notifying the contributor electronically of the posting, and/or updating, of the submittal at the central location.
28. **(Original)** The method as claimed in claim 27 wherein said step of notifying the contributor comprises automatically sending an email message upon achievement of said step of posting, and/or updating, the submittal at the central location.
29. **(Original)** The method as claimed in claim **25 26** wherein said contributor comprises a subcontractor on the construction project.
30. **(Original)** The method as claimed in claim **25 26** wherein said step of preparing the submittal is performed by a prime contractor on the construction project.

31. **(Original)** The method as claimed in claim **25 26** wherein said steps of posting and updating are accomplished electronically.
32. **(Original)** The method as claimed in claim 31 wherein said steps of electronically posting and updating are accomplished on an Internet website.
33. **(Currently Amended)** The method as claimed in claim **25 26** further comprising the steps of **accessing the submittal at the central location by a responder to the submittal, and electronically** approving the submittal **by the responder** and updating the posting to include the approved submittal at the central location.
34. **(Original)** The method as claimed in claim **25 26** further comprising the step of storing a submittal history.
35. **(Original)** The method as claimed in claim 34 wherein said submittal history is maintained beyond completion of the construction project.
36. **(Original)** The method as claimed in claim 34 wherein said submittal history includes submittal information.
37. **(Original)** The method as claimed in claim **25 26** further comprising the step of tracking submittal information.
38. **(Original)** The method as claimed in claim 37 wherein said step of tracking submittal information comprises the step of updating a submittal history archive.